

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 SEOUL 06531 251036Z

ACTION NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 W

-----045978 251038Z /20

O 250927Z JUL 78

FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 2515

C O N F I D E N T I A L SEOUL 6531

NODIS

DELIVER TO EA ASSISTANT SECRETARY HOLBROOK AND EA/K DIRECTOR
RICH AT 0800

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, KS, US

SUBJ: FURTHER APPEAL TO ROKG RE CONGRESSMEN HAMILTON AND SPENCE

REF: STATE 186931

1. FOLLOWING RECEIPT REFTTEL, I CALLED PRESIDENTIAL PROTOCOL SECRETARY CHOI KWANG SOO TO REQUEST THE EARLIEST POSSIBLE APPOINTMENT WITH PRESIDENT PARK. I EMPHASIZED I HAD BEEN INSTRUCTED TO DO SO AT THE PERSONAL DIRECTION OF THE SECRETARY, WHO FULLY SUPPORTED SPEAKER O'NEILL'S REQUEST THAT THE PRESIDENT RECEIVE CONGRESSMEN HAMILTON AND SPENCE. THE SECRETARY FELT SUCH A MEETING WAS EXTREMELY IMPORTANT BECAUSE THE EMISSARIES COULD EXPLAIN THE PROBLEMS OF CONGRESS AS WELL AS THE DANGER TO US-ROK RELATIONS IF NO WAY COULD BE DEvised TO RESOLVE THE KIM DONG-JO AFFAIR. CHOI EXPLAINED THE PRESIDENT HAD ALREADY OFFICIALLY LEFT EH OFFICE AT NOON TODAY FOR VACATION. HE SAID HE WOULD CONSULT WITH OTHER SENIOR OFFICIALS AND BE BACK IN TOUCH WITH ME.

2. ABOUT TWO HOURS LATER, CHOI CALLED TO STATE THAT HE HAD TALKED TO OTHER GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS CONCERNED WHO
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 SEOUL 06531 251036Z

WISHED ME TO CONVEY THE FOLLOWING MESSAGE BACK TO WASHINGTON: THE ROKG HAD NO MEANS OF REPORTING THE NEWEST US REQUEST TO THE PRESIDENT THIS AFTERNOON (PRESUMABLY BECAUSE HE IS ENROUTE TO CHINHAEE). THE KOREAN POSITION HAS NOT CHANGED, AND IT WOULD BE PHYSICALLY IMPOSSIBLE FOR THE CONGRESSMEN TO MEET WITH THE PRESIDENT QTE DURING THIS SEASON UNQTE (PRESUMABLY THE PRESIDENTIAL VACATION).

3. I TOLD CHOI THAT THIS MESSAGE WOULD BE DEEPLY DISAPPOINTING TO SECRETARY VANCE AS WELL AS THE SPEAKER. THEY BOTH BELIEVED IT WAS ESSENTIAL FOR THE HIGHEST LEVEL OF THE KOREAN GOVERNMENT TO RECEIVE THESE HIGHLY RESPECTED MEMBERS OF THE CONGRESS WHO COULD PROVIDE A DIRECT EXPLANATION OF PROBLEMS FACED BY CONGRESS. IN TURN, SUCH A VISIT WOULD PROVIDE THE KOREAN GOVERNMENT WITH AN OPPORTUNITY TO EXPLAIN AUTHORITATIVELY WHY IT FELT ITS CURRENT PROPOSAL WAS A REASONALB ONE AND FULLY DEFENSIBLE BEFORE WORLD OPINION. NEVERTHELESS, I RECOGNIZED THE PROBLEMS PRESENTED BY THE PRESIDENT'S DEPARTURE AND SAID I WOULD REPORT THIS TO WASHINGTON. STRESSING THAT I WAS WITHOUT INSTRUCTION, I ASKED CHOI IF THERE WOULD BE ANY PROSPECT THAT THE CONGRESSMEN COULD MEET THE PRIME MINISTER IF THEY WERE TO COME TO KOREA. HE SAID HE DID NOT KNOW, AND I WOULD HAVE TO PURSUE THAT THROUGH THE FOREIGN MINISTRY.

4. COMMENT: I HAVE USED EVERY CHANNEL AVAILABLE TO ME TO TRY TO CONVINCE THE KOREANS THAT THE SMART THING TO DO IS TO ARRANGE FOR A MEETING BETWEEN PRESIDENT PARK AND THE SPEAKER'S EMISSARIES. CLEARLY THEY ARE MOST RELUCTANT TO ENGAGE THE PRESTIGE OF THE PRESIDENT IN A PUBLIC CONTROVERSY WHERE THEY HAVE NO ASSURANCE THAT THE MATTER CAN BE RESOLVED THROUGH COMPROMISE. MOREOVER, THEY BELIEVE THAT THEY HAVE MADE A REASONABLE OFFER TO US (I.E., THE GOVERN-
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 SEOUL 06531 251036Z

MENT IS PREPARED TO LEAN ON KIM DONG-JO TO RESPOND POSITIVELY TO QUESTIONS PUT TO HIM THROUGH SOME ACCEPTABLE CHANNEL), AND THAT OUR SIDE HAS NOT GIVEN THEM AN ADEQUATE EXPLANATION AS TO WHY THEIR PROPOSAL IS NOT SATISFACTORY LET ALONE OFFER A COUNTER SUGGESTION. I FEAR THAT THE KOREANS ARE DUG IN FIRMLY AND THAT THE PROSPECTS OF BRINGING ABOUT A MEETING BETWEEN THE SPEAKER'S EMISSARIES AND THE VACATIONING PRESIDENT ARE VERY POOR. KOREAN RESISTANCE WILL BE SHARPLY INTENSIFIED IF THE MATTER SPILLS OVER INTO PUBLIC DEBATE IN WASHINGTON.

5. ALTHOUGH I SEE LITTLE ROOM FOR MANEUVER LEFT, I WILL -- UNLESS INSTRUCTED OTHERWISE -- USE THE OCCASION OF MY FIRST FORMAL CALL ON THE PRIME MINISTER TOMORROW AFTERNOON TO PRESS HIM HARD FOR A MEETING, STRESSING THE OPPORTUNITY IT WOULD PROVIDE THE ROKG TO PUT THE BEST FACE ON ITS POSITION. IT WOULD BE VERY HELPFUL TO ME IF I WERE ARMED WITH A STATEMENT THAT THE SPEAKER DOES NOT CONSIDER THE EXISTING KOREAN POSITION TO BE QTE UNREASONABLE UNQTE AND -- ASSUMING HIS EMISSARIES WERE RECEIVED IN SEOUL -- WOULD BE WILLING TO BUILD ON THAT POSITION IN SEEKING MUTUALLY AGREEABLE PROCEDURES. I WOULD ALSO LIKE TO KNOW BY THAT TIME WHETHER

THERE WOULD BE ANY INTEREST IN HAVING CONGRESSMEN HAMILTON
AND SPENCE MEET WITH THE PRIME MINISTER AS A SUBSTITUTE FOR
THE VACATIONING PRESIDENT. IF NOT, I HAD BETTER TURN THIS
IDEA OFF PROMPTLY.

6. REQUEST URGENT INSTRUCTIONS RE PARA 5 ABOVE AS WELL AS
GUIDANCE IN RESPONSE TO QUERIES ON EXPECTED WASHINGTON
STAR ARTICLE.
GLEYSTEN

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: INSTRUCTIONS, PRESIDENT, CAT-B, DIPLOMATIC REPRESENTATIONS, MEETINGS, CODELS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 25 jul 1978
Decaption Date: 20 Mar 2014
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978SEOUL06531
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: 1
Expiration:
Film Number: n/a
Format: TEL
From: SEOUL
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 2
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780725/aaaaaumk.tel
Line Count: 124
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Message ID: 30c9676d-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION NODS
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: NODIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: NODIS
Reference: 78 STATE 186931
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 17 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1899925
Secure: LOCK1
Status: NATIVE
Subject: FURTHER APPEAL TOROKG RE CONGRESSMEN HAMILTON AND SPENCE
TAGS: PGOV, OREP, US, KS, (O'NEILL, THOMAS P JR), (CHRISTOPHER, WARREN)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/30c9676d-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014